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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REPORTED FAILURE TO SECURE A SINAI SEPARATION AGREEMENT AND HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON WERE FRONT-PAGED BY ALL MAJOR PAPERS WITH LEADING UNITED DAILY NEWS AND CHINA TIMES TERMING IT A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC SETBACK FOR KISSINGER AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY CAUSED BY THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF U.S. INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. LARGEST CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000) AND INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES (300,000) TERMED KISSINGER REPORTED FAILURE MAJOR DIPLOMATIC SETBACK CAUSED BY INEFFECTIVENESS OF U.S. INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS. CHINA TIMES SAID BOTH ISRAEL AND ARABS HAVE BEGUN DOUBTING STABILITY OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND HAVE LOST TRUST IN U.S. PLEDGES REGARDING A POSSIBLE SINAI AGREEMENT. CHINA TIMES POINTED TO INDOCHINA AS AN EXAMPLE OF UNPRECEDENTED U.S. PASSIVITY IN RELATIONS WITH ALLIES OVER PAST YEAR. U.S. HAS DONE NOTHING EFFECTIVE IN
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DEFENDING THE PARIS PEACE ACCORD IT SIGNED. SOVIETS

CAN NOW STEP INTO MIDDLE EAST WHILE AMERICA'S EUROPEAN PARTNERS SEEK COMPROMISE WITH MOSCOW. ALL THIS RENDERS U.S. A TRULY ISLOATED NATION AND U.S. WILL HAVE TO PAY DOUBLE PRICE NOW TO MAINTAIN OWN SECURITY. IN SEPARATE FRONTPAGE COMMENTARY CHINA TIMES SAID "INERT-MINDED" U.S. SENATE MAY NOW PASS MANSFIELD RESOLUTION ON OVERSEAS TROOP WITHDRAWALS TO SAVE MONEY AND THIS ISOLATIONIST GESTURE CANNOT BE STOPPED BY FORD'S PRESIDENTIAL VETO POWER WHICH HAS PROVED INOPERATIVE RECENT CASES.

3. UNITED DAILY NEWS LAMENTED DECADENCE OF AMERICAN COURAGE AND SUBSTANCE AND BLAMED ILLNESS ON U.S. UNAWARENESS OF TRANSITIONS AFOOT IN WORLD. WORLD IS NO LONGER INVOLVED IN OLD STYLE WARFARE OVER CITIES AND LAND BUT RATHER IN CONTENTION BETWEEN TOTALITARIANISM AND SALVERY, DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM. INDOCHINA CIRISIS WOULD HAVE BEEN EASED IF PRESIDENT NIXON HAD NOT TAKEN RISK OF COLLUDING WITH MAOISTS. NOW, FATE WILL DECIDE WHETHER U.S. CAN RESTORE ITS COURAGE THROUGH ACTS OF SOME OUTSTANDING STATESMEN.

4. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS SAID KISSINGER MISSION FAILED FOR TWO REASONS: ONE, HE COULDN'T GIVE ISRAELIS ASSURANCES REPLACING THE MITLA AND GIDA PASSES AND ABU RUDEIS OILFIELD AND, TWO, HE COULDN'T GIVE EGYPT WHAT ISRAEL DECLINED TO GIVE UP FOR LACK OF AMERICAN ASSURANCES. "IF THE AMERICANS WILL NOT SAVE CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM -- OR EVEN GIVE THEM THE CHANCE TO SAVE THEMSELVES -- HOW MUCH DEPENDENCE CAN THE ISRAELIS PLACE ON PROMISES WHICH ARE NOT SANCTIFIED BY LAW AND THE CONGRESS?... HISTORY'S WHEELS GRINDS SLOWLY BUT THEY DON'T MISS ANYTHING. IN THE END, THE FAILURE OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST MUST MEAN WAR THAT ISRAELCANNOT POSSIBLY WIN. THERE ARE TOO MANY ARABS AND TOO FEW ISRAELIS. PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT ARABS, ISRAELIS AND THE USSR NOW KNOW THAT THE INITED STATES HAS NO INTENTION OF FIGHTING IN DEFENSE OF ISRAEL. INDOCHINA HAS GIVEN THE ARABS AND THEIR SOVIET SUPPLIERS A TREMENDOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE... UNFORTUNATELY, THE UNITED STATES UNCLASSIFIED

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IS IN THE PROCESS OF RETREATING FROM ITS NEO-ROMAN ROLE AND THE USSR HAS NO OBJECTION TO CONTINUED TENSION AND AN OCCASIONAL BOUT OF FIGHTING IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THAT SETS THE STAGE FOR MORE AND POSSIBLY BIGGER TROUBLE." CLARKE

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